(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the year 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government are concerned over the defeat of India in all the events in the country or abroad till-date besides Titan Cup; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of Indian Cricket?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Nil.

(b) Nil.

(c) and (d) The Government is very much concerned about the defeat of Indian Cricket team in the recent matches. Board of Control for Cricket in India, the apex body for promotion of Cricket, has assigned the failure to lack of killer instinct among the players of the team. The Board is taking steps for adopting modern techniques for overcoming similar problems in future.

The Government is taking steps for improving the performance of Indian team in various sports disciplines including Cricket. Guidelines for assisting National Sports Federations have been recently revised with a view to giving required assistance for promotion of sports and achieving excellence at National and International sports events.

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

1867. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up LPG agencies and petrol pumps in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the names of places where the survey has been conducted and the time by which these agencies and petrol pumps are likely to start their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement of Professional Ability

1868. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had launched an ambitious scheme to improve the condition and the professional ability of the teachers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had released any amount for the said scheme;

(c) whether even the one fourth of the said amount has not been utilised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action to utilise the allocated fully to fulfil the ambitious scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Mapping the Ground Water Resources

1869. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scientific survey and satellite imaging has been carried out for mapping the ground water resources in the bed of the vedic river Sarawati (now extinct);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to an action plan proposed by a former executive of the Asian Development Bank for reviving water resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to consider ways and means for the implementation of the aforesaid plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Joint studies have been carried out by the Department of Space through Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Jodhpur and Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad and some other organisations for reconstruction of Palaeo drainage network in North Western India including the areas sometimes referred to as vedic river Saraswati by using data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellite and European Remote Sensing Satellite. A joint study team comprising members from different central and state organisations has also been constituted by Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Jodhpur, to carry out the work of reconstruction of Palaeo drainage network of Western Rajasthan.

(c) to (e) A research project proposal titled "Saraswati River Area Development Project - Concept and Proposal" was received in the Ministry of Water